

REMARKS

Independent Claims 108, 114, 158, and 168 have been amended. Dependent Claims 217 - 233 have been added to claim the invention with more particularity. Consequently, Claims 108, 110 - 112, 114 - 121, 143, 158, 168, 185, 187, 193, 205, 211, and 217 - 233 are now pending.

Claim 168 has been rejected under 35 USC 103(b) as anticipated by Alderson, U.S. Patent 5,939,822. This rejection is respectfully traversed in view of the revisions to Claim 168.

Alderson discloses a flat cathode-ray tube ("CRT") display in which support structure 3 formed with "fluted" spacers is situated between anode 1 and cathode 2 for reducing secondary electron emission. Each fluted spacer is shaped generally like a wall having a pair of opposite faces. The fluting for each spacer wall consists of triangular grooves provided in the wall's faces so as to extend parallel to anode 1 or cathode 2. Each triangular groove extends along each face of each spacer wall from one end of that face fully to the other end of that face. The grooves thus have a sawtooth appearance as a group when viewed generally perpendicular to their lengths.

In the paragraph bridging cols. 10 and 11, Alderson discloses that the fluted spacer wall of Fig. 6 is fabricated by an extrusion process utilizing a die which, as shown in Fig. 16, has an opening in a sawtooth shape that matches the cross-sectional sawtooth shape of the fluted spacer wall. A sheet of glass of suitable thickness is pulled through the sawtooth-shaped opening at sufficiently elevated temperature and pressure to provide the opposite faces of the glass sheet with the sawtooth-shaped fluting grooves. See Fig. 17 of Alderson. The so-shaped piece of glass is then cut to the desired length for a fluted spacer wall.

Claim 168, as amended, is repeated below:

168. A method comprising the steps of:

roughening an initial face of a primary body to form a rough face by a procedure in which the primary body comprises an electrically non-conductive substrate and a primary layer formed over the substrate, the primary layer has a face that largely forms the primary body's initial face, and material of the primary layer is removed without significantly attacking the substrate; and

subsequently positioning, between opposing first and second plate structures of a flat-panel display for which the second plate structure produces an image upon receiving electrons emitted by the first plate structure during

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operation of the display, a spacer comprising at least a segment of the primary body and its rough face.

The Office Action does not indicate what material in Alderson is believed to anticipate Claim 168. For the purpose of responding to the anticipation rejection, Applicants' Attorney has assumed that the Examiner believes Claim 168 to be anticipated by the above-mentioned material in the paragraph bridging cols. 10 and 11 of Alderson in which the fluted spacer wall of Fig. 6 is fabricated by an extrusion process as generally illustrated in Figs. 16 and 17.

Claim 168 now requires that the primary body comprise "an electrically non-conductive substrate and a primary layer formed over the substrate" where "the primary layer has a face that largely forms the primary body's initial face". Alderson does not disclose that the sheet of glass used in forming a fluted spacer wall according to the extrusion process described in the paragraph bridging cols. 10 and 11 consists of a substrate portion and an overlying layer. Consequently, the material disclosed in the paragraph bridging cols. 10 and 11 of Alderson does not meet the requirement of Claim 168 that the primary body comprise "an electrically non-conductive substrate and a primary layer formed over the substrate".

None of the other material in Alderson appears to disclose that a spacer wall for a flat-panel display is formed by a process in which a face-roughening operation is performed on a primary body comprising "an electrically non-conductive substrate and a primary layer formed over the substrate". Alderson therefore does not anticipate Claim 168.

Claim 168 now further requires that "material of the primary layer" be "removed without significantly attacking the substrate". Since Alderson does not meet the requirement of Claim 168 that the primary body comprise "an electrically non-conductive substrate and a primary layer formed over the substrate", Alderson does not meet the further requirement of Claim 168 that "material of the primary layer" be "removed without significantly attacking the substrate".

In addition, Alderson does not disclose that any significant amount of material is removed from the sheet of glass during the extrusion process described in the paragraph bridging cols. 10 and 11. Although the extrusion process causes the sheet of glass to be changed from a flat profile to a sawtooth-shaped profile, substantially all of the material which formed the sheet of glass prior to the extrusion process appears to be present in the resultant structure at the end of the extrusion process. Unlike what is required in Claim 168, Alderson's extrusion process does not involve removing any significant amount of material

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along a face of a body in order to roughen that face. This is an additional reason why Alderson does not anticipate Claim 168.

Nothing in Alderson would provide a person skilled in the art with any motivation or incentive for initially configuring the extruded sheet of glass as a substrate portion and an overlying layer. Nor would anything in Alderson provide a person skilled in the art with any incentive or suggestion for replacing the extrusion process with a roughening process in which material is removed along a face of a body in order to roughen the face. As a result, Claim 168 is patentable over Alderson.

The allowance of Claims 108, 110 - 112, 114 - 120, 143, 158, 185, 187, 193, 205, and 211 is noted.

The Office Action does not indicate the status of Claim 121, i.e., whether it has been allowed or rejected. Claim 121 depends from allowed Claim 120. Accordingly, Applicants' Attorney assumes that the Examiner meant to allow Claim 121. Please let Applicants' Attorney know if the status of Claim 121 is anything but allowance.

Independent Claims 108, 114, and 158 have been revised to claim the invention with more particularity. The revisions to Claims 108, 114, and 158 do not expand the scope of the claimed subject matter in any way. Hence, Claims 108, 114, and 158 remain allowable. The same applies to Claims 110 - 112 due to their dependence (directly) from Claim 108 and to Claims 115 - 121 due to their dependence (directly or indirectly) from Claim 114.

New Claims 217 - 220 all depend (directly or indirectly) from Claim 108. New Claims 221 - 226 all depend (directly or indirectly) from Claim 114. New Claims 227 and 228 both depend (directly or indirectly) from Claim 143. New Claims 229 and 230 both depend (directly or indirectly) from Claim 158. New Claim 231 depends (directly) from Claim 185. New Claims 232 and 233 both depend (directly or indirectly) from Claim 193. Since Claims 108, 114, 143, 158, 185, and 193 have been allowed, dependent Claims 217 - 233 are allowable.

The abstract has been revised to conform more closely to the method nature of the pending claims.

In short, Claim 168 has been shown to be patentable over the applied art. Accordingly, Claims 121, 168, and 217 - 233 should be allowed along with already-allowed

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Claims 108, 110 - 112, 114 - 120, 143, 158, 185, 187, 193, 205, and 211 so that the application may proceed to issue.

Please telephone Attorney for Applicant(s) at 650-964-9767 if there are any questions.

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Respectfully submitted,

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